

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-02

TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 TAR-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 XMB-04 OPIC-06

LAB-04 SIL-01 /094 W

----- 103067

R 221546Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2014

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

UNCLAS BERN 0325

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN SZ

SUBJ: WATCH TARIFFS

REF: STATE 210924

1. MAX KRELL, U S DESK OFFICER IN THE SWISS DIVISION OF COMMERCE, CATEGORICALLY DENIED THAT THE GOS IS CONSIDERING RAISING IMPORT DUTIES ON WATCHES AND WATCH COMPONENTS. HE SAID HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND HOW SUCH A RUMOR COULD HAVE BEEN STARTED.

2. DISCREET INQUIRIES WITH SWISS WATCH INDUSTRY SOURCES REVEALED NO EVIDENCE THAT SWISS MANUFACTURERS HAVE OR UNCLASSIFIED

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WILL ASK THE GOS TO RAISE TARIFFS.

3. EMBASSY COMMENT: HIGHER DUTIES WOULD NOT BE A RATIONAL WAY FOR THE GOS TO HELP THE DEPRESSED SWISS WATCH INDUSTRY. APPROXIMATELY 95 PERCENT OF SWISS WATCH PRODUCTION IS EXPORTED AND, CONSEQUENTLY, THE INDUSTRY AND THE GOS ARE VITALLY CONCERNED ABOUT DUTIES AND OTHER TRADE BARRIERS IN OTHER COUNTRIES. WHILE HIGHER SWISS DUTIES MIGHT PROVIDE MORE PROTECTION IN THE HOME MARKET, WHICH ACCOUNTS FOR ONLY 5 PERCENT OF SWISS WATCH SALES, SUCH INCREASES WOULD BE DISASTROUS IF THEY PROMPTED OTHER COUNTRIES (E.G., THE US) TO TAKE RETAILATORY ACTAION AGAINST SWISS WATCH IMPORTS.

DAVIS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 22 JAN 1976
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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